

San Bernardino County Sun (<http://www.sbsun.com>)

New Bloomington affordable housing complex changing lives, community

By Joe Nelson, *The Sun*

Wednesday, May 11, 2016



BLOOMINGTON >> Myra Vasquez hosted a tour Wednesday of her 3-bedroom townhome at the Bloomington Grove & Lillian Court apartment complex, beaming as she led her guests through her living room, spacious kitchen and upstairs bedrooms.

She said her new home is a big step up from where she and her two children, Mason Lozano, 14, and Madison Lozano, 12, previously resided in Redlands.

"We love it here. It's beautiful!" said Vasquez, 40, following a grand opening ceremony Wednesday at the new affordable housing complex on Valley Boulevard, west of Locust Avenue.

Photo gallery: [Grand opening held for Bloomington housing complex](#)

The 106-unit complex is the first of a two-phase, \$66.9 million development and includes two community rooms and a 6,700 square-foot public library opening Saturday. Bloomington Grove is for families, while Lillian Court is for seniors.

"Having a library here, there's no excuse why you can't do homework," Vasquez said, referring to her children.

The second phase of the project will include 84 family townhomes and should be completed in about 10 months, said Stan Smith, vice president of development for Related California, a developer of mixed-income housing and mixed-use developments that partnered with the county on the project.

Bloomington Grove & Lillian Court serve low income families, seniors and individuals who are homeless or at risk of being homeless and are referred by the county Department of Behavioral Health.

More than 667 people applied for housing at the complex during the filing period in October. A lottery was conducted in December, and by March all 36 units at Bloomington Grove and 50 of the 70 units at the Lillian Court senior complex were occupied, said Related California spokesman Ron Demeter.

County Supervisor Josie Gonzales said the project includes a mile of new sewer and water lines that can be accessed by other properties on the north and south side of Valley Boulevard, which can potentially attract new businesses to the area and fuel economic growth and activity.

"This venture today opens up opportunity for many lives," Gonzales said. "When one area improves, its

neighbors improve as well.”

Related California CEO William A. Witte added, “The whole is greater than the sum of its parts.”

For Vasquez, life has been good the last several months. She said her parents, Sal and Florence Vasquez, will be moving into a unit at Lillian Court on Friday, directly across from her townhome.

And Vasquez said her children cannot get enough of the place,

“We still come home and they say, ‘We can’t believe we live here. It’s so fancy,’” Vasquez said.

URL: <http://www.sbsun.com/government-and-politics/20160511/new-bloomington-affordable-housing-complex-changing-lives-community>

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Celebration, tears accompany posthumous degree for San Bernardino terror victim Aurora Godoy

By Donna Littlejohn, San Bernardino County Sun

Wednesday, May 11, 2016



Juan Manuel Banales arrived at Los Angeles Harbor College late Wednesday carrying the colorful symbols of a graduation celebration: a gold Mylar balloon that read “Congratulations Graduate!” and a bouquet of bright flowers.

But the tears he wiped away told the back story.

Some 20 family members and friends of his daughter, [Aurora Godoy, the youngest victim in the Dec. 2 terror attack in San Bernardino](#), turned out to accept a posthumous associate degree conveyed on the college’s former student, who was only

two classes shy of graduating.

[• PHOTOS: More from the Harbor College degree ceremony for Aurora Godoy](#)

The posthumous degree was a promise made at her funeral by Assemblyman Mike Gipson, whose son attended Carson High School with Godoy.

“They followed through, which is nice,” said Godoy’s husband, James, who attended Wednesday’s regular meeting of the Los Angeles Community College Board of Trustees meeting in Wilmington with the couple’s 2-year-old son, Alexander.

The nine-member board pledged a free education for the couple’s young son at any one of the district’s community colleges.

“She is indeed one of our own,” said Harbor College President Otto Lee. “She will always be with us and now is forever a part of our Class of 2016.”

An office assistant for San Bernardino County’s environmental health division, Godoy, 26, was the youngest of 14 people killed Dec. 2 by co-worker Syed Rizwan Farook and his wife, Tashfeen Malik. The pair later were killed by police.

Godoy attended Harbor College intermittently beginning in about 2008. She cut back her studies when she began working for San Bernardino County, first in the Registrar of Voters Office in 2013 and two years later in the Environmental Health Services Division.

“This recognizes her hard work as a student and ensures that her memory remains a part of the Seahawk family,” said board President Scott Svonkin.

Meeting with reporters before the meeting, James Godoy of San Jacinto said the months since the attack have been difficult.

"It's been an adjustment," he said.

Mother's Day was spent visiting Godoy's grave.

Lee said the young mother earned the honor, serving as a role model for students who persevere, often juggling work and family while pursuing an education.

"She was taking college courses to improve her skills while working full time and having all of her family obligations," Lee told the Riverside Press-Enterprise this week. "In that sense, it inspires many of our students who are going through the same thing. To get so close and be a victim of this tragedy is so senseless."

It is the first time the college has awarded a posthumous degree. Godoy will be recognized at the college's June 7 graduation ceremony as well.

Godoy, who grew up in the South Bay as Aurora Banales, met her future husband in 2003 in the ROTC program at Carson High School, where she also was a cheerleader. They quickly became friends and then sweethearts.

She also attended culinary school after she graduated from high school in 2007.

Other posthumous honors have been given in her name by U.S. Rep. Raul Ruiz, D-Palm Desert, and Carson Mayor Albert Robles.

Speakers at her Dec. 16 memorial service at Hope Chapel South Bay in Harbor Gateway — attended by some 1,000 friends and family members — remembered her as an outgoing young woman who loved Disneyland, baking and eating sweets. She also loved the New York Yankees and the Green Bay Packers.

Her husband said Wednesday that she was always the social "point person" in their union. Now, he's had to learn to become more open, he said.

Alexander, wearing a bright yellow "Go Team Awesome" T-shirt and Mickey Mouse sneakers, squirmed in his father's arms as the family, surrounded by media, waited for the board meeting to begin.

The degree, James Godoy said, will be especially meaningful for his son, "to know she was that close" to graduating.

Aurora Godoy's parents, Juan Manuel Banales and Dolores Valles of Gardena, brightened up once the meeting was underway and the degree was formally presented.

But the sadness that brought them there could not be forgotten.

It was a special day, said the father, who didn't speak much English. But then, wiping away a tear, he added: "It's very hard."



By Staff Reports

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May 11, 2016 5:55PM

Wonderland to visit Hesperia Library

The Hesperia Branch Library invites the public to its Library's Wonderland event where families and kids can meet "Alice, The Queen of Hearts and the Mad Hatter." The event will include games, crafts, hat-making, face painting, and opportunities to win prizes and to take photos with the Wonderland characters. The Wonderland event, which is free and open to all ages, is scheduled from 4 to 7 p.m Tuesday at the Hesperia Branch library, located at 9650 Seventh Ave. in Hesperia. For more information, call 760-244-4898 or visit sbclib.org.

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/article/20160511/NEWS/160519926>

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San Bernardino County Sun (<http://www.sbsun.com>)

City of Industry puts damper on San Bernardino County wildfire training

By Jason Henry, San Gabriel Valley Tribune

Thursday, May 12, 2016

A simulated wildfire in Tonner Canyon next week, expected to draw more than 600 firefighters from Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino and Riverside counties, may soon be snuffed out if the fire agencies and the city of Industry can't resolve a bureaucratic dispute.

The three-day drill, which has been held since 2009 on Industry's land in the canyon, began as a test to help smooth out the communication problems that plagued the response to the 2008 Freeway Complex Fire. That wildfire burned 30,000 acres across three counties and destroyed more than 300 homes.

But the annual training session may now become a major casualty of [reforms](#) targeting the troubled city.

In the last month, Industry officials ruled that each fire agency must ensure that the city would not be liable in the event of a firefighter being injured or killed during the training. The request kicked off a series of legal squabbles that threaten to undo months of preparation by fire agencies.

"There was no actual license agreement to enter the property," said Bianca Sparks, Industry's deputy city attorney. "We were just letting them onto the property without any sort of agreement."

Wrangling a dozen agencies and their lawyers into reaching an agreement before May 18 is unlikely, according to representatives from three of the counties. Industry's City Council approved an alternative that would require each firefighter to waive his rights to file a claim against the city. L.A. County Assistant Fire Chief Jim Robinson and representatives from the other counties say they're not sure all of the departments will be receptive to that idea either.

"It's still up in the air," said Brad Phoenix, a battalion chief with the Orange County Fire Authority, following Industry's council meeting Tuesday.

If Industry and the fire agencies can't agree on how to handle the liability before next week, the training planned since January will be canceled.

"It's the time frame we're up against," Phoenix said. "Fire season is upon us very soon."

Phoenix said the departments can't reschedule the training because they'll be too busy responding to actual fires once June rolls around.

The firefighters chose Tonner Canyon because it is centrally located. During the three-day training from May 18 to 20, the departments will simulate a raging wildfire — albeit without any real fire. Still, they'll clear brush with hand crews and lay hoses to fight the imaginary flames.

The past seven training sessions have helped the agencies work out the kinks in their emergency

communication plan.

“We’re a little bit more streamlined, more coordinated,” said Luis Ocampo, a battalion chief with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection in San Bernardino County.

The fire departments have operated under a loose arrangement with Industry since 2009. The potential liability has not come up before and wasn’t raised until recently, according to the firefighters. Each department in the past provided a standardized form for the city to sign off on, Ocampo said.

“That’s been sufficient in years past,” Ocampo said.

Sparks said that without indemnifying the city against the risks of the training to the firefighters, Industry officials would not be able to rely on their insurance if the city gets sued. The firefighters may not intend to file a lawsuit against the city if they get hurt, but their families or estates might if someone dies during the training.

The increased scrutiny comes as the city’s new council and administrators attempt to move the city away from its roots as a “company town.”

The manufacturing city of about 200 residents came under fire last year when an audit found it paid more than \$326 million over two decades to former Mayor David Perez and his family’s companies. The audit found that loose arrangements with Perez’s companies may have resulted in erroneous overpayments for work that may never have happened.

A separate state controller’s audit contained similar sentiments earlier this year, when it found that Industry did not have sufficient financial controls to protect it from corruption.

Not everyone agrees that the city is making progress. A state senator has proposed legislation aimed at forcing dramatic changes on the city.

URL: <http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20160512/city-of-industry-puts-damper-on-san-bernardino-county-wildfire-training>

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Marine veteran takes over as fire chief

Posted: Wednesday, May 11, 2016 4:22 pm

MORONGO BASIN — Tom Marshall will oversee county firefighters in the Morongo Basin and the rest of the South Desert Division thanks to a recently announced promotion.

Marshall was promoted from battalion chief to division chief and assigned to the South Desert Division. As division chief, he is responsible for rescue operations, firefighting and emergency medical response.

"It is a privilege to serve our residents and lead our firefighters of the south desert," Marshall said. "I am honored to be given this opportunity and I look forward to continuing the great working example Division Chief Chamberlin set for this division."

The chief's territory, the South Desert Division, stretches from Yucca Valley and Joshua Tree National Park to the Colorado River. It includes the city of Needles and the communities of Havasu Lake and Big River.

After leaving the Marine Corps in 1990, Marshall volunteered with the Newberry Springs Fire Department. He was hired as a full-time firefighter with the Fort Irwin Fire Department in 1993. He started his career with San Bernardino County Fire in 1998 as an engineer, was promoted to captain in 2001 and in 2014 was promoted to battalion chief.

Marshall has served in every county fire division over the last 18 years of his career. He serves on Southern California Incident Management Team 1, and has been the division supervisor and safety officer on the team for the last 10 years.

Marshall and his wife of 24 years, Amy, have two children: daughter Kelsey, who is in Georgia after serving in the Army, and son Garrett, who is in the Air Force.

Marshall succeeds Chief John Chamberlin, who was assigned to the newly created East Valley Division.



Marine veteran takes over as fire chief

Tom Marshall talks over the radio during a recent structure fire in Landers. Marshall was promoted to division chief this week.

San Bernardino County Sun (<http://www.sbsun.com>)

Rancho Cucamonga deputy injured in pursuit that ends in Hesperia

By Ryan Hagen, The Sun

Wednesday, May 11, 2016

RANCHO CUCAMONGA >> A deputy was injured Tuesday during a pursuit from here to Hesperia, according to a news release.

San Bernardino Sheriff's Department officials say that around 11:30 a.m., deputies received notice that its automated license plate recognition software had noticed in the area of Day Creek and Foothill Boulevards a vehicle belonging to John Bickers, a suspect in a criminal threats investigation in Apple Valley.

Deputies swarmed the area and found the vehicle on Foothill Boulevard near Interstate 15. They tried to get it to stop, but Bickers reportedly continued driving onto the northbound 15, officials said in a news release.

Deputies performed a successful PIT maneuver near Ranchero Road and Maple Street in Hesperia, and took Bickers into custody.

Bickers, a 64, of Apple Valley was arrested on an outstanding warrant and suspicion of felony evading. He was booked into West Valley Detention Center with bail set at \$50,000, according to jail records.

One deputy from Rancho Cucamonga suffered a minor injury during the pursuit and was taken to the local hospital as a precaution, officials say.

Automated license plate recognition cameras have “dramatically” increased Rancho Cucamonga law enforcement’s ability to locate stolen vehicles and obtain information on where suspects’ vehicles are, according to the release. The information can be shared with other agencies to assist with investigations and quickly apprehend suspects.

URL: <http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20160511/rancho-cucamonga-deputy-injured-in-pursuit-that-ends-in-hesperia>

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By [Matthew Cabe](#)

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May 11, 2016 3:52PM

Apple Valley considering installing metal detectors at Council Chambers

APPLE VALLEY — The Town Council on Tuesday discussed a perceived need for increased security at town facilities for the second time since the Dec. 2 terrorist attack in San Bernardino.

Mayor Barb Stanton previously asked for the discussion — specifically in the way of metal detectors at the entrance of the Council Chambers — and Capt. Lana Tomlin, commander of the Apple Valley Sheriff's Station, presented the Council with a report on potential security measures in January.

During Tuesday's meeting, Tomlin expressed her concern with bringing metal detectors into the town.

"I'm not a big advocate for the metal detectors," Tomlin said, "because we would have to man them. I don't think that would be a good resource to have a deputy sheriff man it. Then you might want to go to a private security for cost savings, but again, I don't know that that's the right way to go."

In addition, Tomlin addressed necessary policy changes regarding the types of items that would not be permitted in Council Chambers, as well as protocol for those who man the metal detectors after installation.

Another area of concern would be not just the cost of additional law enforcement officers, but also the cost of metal detectors themselves.

One portable metal detector and two handheld wands would cost between \$5,400 and \$5,600, according to town documents that showed funding would be appropriated from within the town's General Fund.

As a result, Tomlin offered alternative security enhancements, including raising and bullet-proofing the dais, turning a conference room into a safe room and adding a second podium for public comment that would be closer to the sergeant at arms.

Currently, the podium is on the south side of Council Chambers, farther from the sergeant at arms who is positioned on the north side during meetings.

A second law enforcement officer mans the building's side exit, which is in proximity to the podium, but a second podium on the north side of the chambers would create a "reactionary gap and opportunity" for the sergeant at arms to intervene in a hostile situation, according to Tomlin.

Among the other local municipalities, only Adelanto has made plans to discuss the use of metal detectors following the terrorist attack in San Bernardino. According to Adelanto City Manager Cindy Herrera, the City Council has asked her to explore future protective measures for City Hall.

"The possibility of metal detectors has recently been mentioned," Herrera said via email, "but needs to be explored with the Sheriff's Department and (we need to) receive Captain (Greg) Herbert's opinion in this matter."

Stanton first expressed interest in metal detectors following the approval of their use during meetings of the San Bernardino Associated Governments.

SANBAG President Ryan McEachron said Executive Director Raymond Wolfe implemented the use of a metal detector following the attack, and SANBAG's Board of Directors ratified Wolfe's decision in January.

A private security company runs the metal detector, according to McEachron, who added that increased wait times to enter SANBAG meetings has not been an issue from his perspective.

Meanwhile, it remained unclear following Tuesday's discussion whether the Town Council would approve the use metal detectors in the future.

"This Council's talked for many years about some sort of security," Stanton said. "But it was thought maybe, by (me), that the easiest (route) would be some sort of metal detector you walk through and at least you know someone may not be carrying a weapon or something."

"I mean let's be blunt. It's horrible, but it's a reality. I don't know where we may go. This may not be the best avenue for us ... Maybe this one needs to go back (to staff for further analysis)."

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<http://www.vvdailypress.com/article/20160511/NEWS/160519939>

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SAN BERNARDINO: District holds off on KVCR funding request

By FIELDING BUCK

2016-05-11 17:04:14



KVCR's request for funding to make it through this fiscal year is on hold, according to the San Bernardino Community College District.

Alfredo Cruz, the Inland public station's general manager, asked for help to address an immediate need for \$500,000 to get through the last weeks of fiscal 2016 at the board of trustees' last meeting on April 14. He also asked for district support of \$800,000 per year for the next two fiscal years.

The board holds this month's meeting on Thursday, May 12, and KVCR isn't on the agenda.

The district is holding off on the request to see what KVCR's financial situation is nearer to the end of the fiscal year, which is June 30, according to Alisa Sparkia Moore, district spokeswoman.

She said Cruz actually asked the board for \$400,000, not the full \$500,000, out of concern KVCR might end the fiscal year with a funding shortfall. She said it doesn't appear that there will be one.

Calls to Cruz's office were not returned.

Moore said the board will take up the request for an increase in funding for fiscal 2016-2017 when the district's budget comes up for approval in the fall. She said Jose Torres, director of fiscal services, will be working with Cruz on the budget.

The district's support for KVCR was \$300,000 at the start of 2015-2016, according to Cruz's presentation.

The future of KVCR is unclear for reasons that don't involve its budget.

The district holds KVCR's license and last year trustees voted to enter a Federal Communication Commission auction to potentially sell off part or all of its airwaves. The auction began in March and is being conducted in secrecy until it is completed, a process that will take several months.

The district has a range of options between selling nothing and going off the air. Trustees say they are bound by the FCC not to discuss the situation.

Contact the writer: fbuck@pe.com, 951-368-95551

San Bernardino County Sun (<http://www.sbsun.com>)

Redlands files cross complaint against Orange Blossom Trail designer, contractor

By Sandra Emerson, Redlands Daily Facts

Wednesday, May 11, 2016

REDLANDS >> The city has filed a cross complaint against the contractor and architecture firm working on the first phase of the [Orange Blossom Trail project](#).

The cross complaint, filed May 6 in San Bernardino County Superior Court, alleges that [Yucaipa-based KAD Paving](#) and Riverside-based RHA Landscape Architects-Planners Inc. breached their contracts with the city for their work on a 1.3-mile segment of the trail from Wabash to Grove avenues.

The city's filing follows a complaint filed in December by KAD Paving. The company's claim contradicts the city's, and accuses Redlands of violating the contract and causing more than \$1 million in damages.

KAD Paving alleges the city caused numerous delays in the project, had inaccurate designs and allowed other contractors onto the job site, causing liability concerns for the company.

The city alleges RHA, hired in September to design the trail segment, failed to properly survey, review, and analyze the site's existing topography, elevations, soil erosion and other features with sufficient scope to ensure the successful engineering, design and construction of the trail segment.

Because of this, the trail needed repair and redesign, causing additional expense to the city, according to the city's complaint.

RHA could not be reached for comment Wednesday.

The city also alleges that KAD Paving violated the contract, [entered into in May](#), by not completing the work within the time specified.

In its complaint, the city denies causing damages to KAD Paving, and argues that if the company did suffer damages, it was because of RHA. The amount of damages caused to the city, meanwhile, are to be proven at trial.

The first phase of the Orange Blossom Trail, a 1.3-mile segment between Wabash and Grove avenues, is nearly complete, city officials say.

Once complete, the trail will provide 7.5 miles to 8.6 miles for hiking, biking, walking and jogging from the Santa Ana River Trail south to a route following the Mill Creek Mission Zanja to the unused rail beds through the middle of town to Opal Avenue and back to the Santa Ana River Trail.

Inland Valley Daily Bulletin (<http://www.dailypbulletin.com>)

Cadiz Inc. still needs permission to build pipeline

By Alicia Robinson, a robinson@pe.com, @arobinson_pe

Wednesday, May 11, 2016



Now that plans to pump underground water from deep in the Mojave Desert have survived a legal challenge, project developer Cadiz Inc. faces hurdles in delivering the water to customers around Southern California.

A state appeals court on Tuesday upheld six rulings in the company's favor on various environmental and procedural challenges.

But Cadiz must now resolve two key issues before moving the \$225 million project forward.

It needs the federal Bureau of Land Management's approval to use railroad right of way for a 43-mile pipeline that would carry the water to the Colorado River. The agency rejected the company's request in October.

And it needs the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's permission to use its Colorado River aqueduct to deliver the desert water to users in Los Angeles, Orange and Riverside counties. The MWD and Cadiz are in talks but have not worked out a deal.

The project would tap an underground aquifer from a well on Cadiz land and pump about 50,000 acre-feet of water per year to serve the Santa Margarita Water District, Jurupa Community Services District, Golden State Water Co., with customers in Los Angeles, Orange and San Bernardino counties, and three other suppliers.

The company's property sits in the middle of the newly designated Mojave Trails National Monument.

Cadiz President Scott Slater is confident the project will proceed and hopes to break ground this year. But in light of the obstacles, opponents and some who want to buy the water don't see it as a certainty.

"We are not programming this as a firm source of water in the future," Jurupa district General Manager Todd Corbin said.

Disagreements remain

Slater said Wednesday his focus is now on showing BLM officials that the pipeline "will further railroad purposes," the standard for using the right of way. The pipeline would have built-in turbines to power railroad lights and crossings, would provide water to put out fires on wooden trestles, and the project

would add fiber optic cable for railroad use.

It's the same proposal BLM officials rejected last fall. In a statement Wednesday, agency spokeswoman Martha Maciel said, "Because the proposed pipeline is not within the rights conveyed to the railroad, a separate BLM authorization is necessary."

Project opponents say that would require a federal environmental review.

"They haven't had the type of independent environmental assessment that is required by the federal government to understand the implications that their project would have on public lands that belong to all Americans," said David Lamfrom, California desert program manager for the National Parks Conservation Association. His group was among those that sued to block the Cadiz project.

Slater disagreed, contending he already went through a tougher state-level review, and that the appeals court ruling settled the environmental issues. Either he'll convince BLM officials that they erred in rejecting the pipeline, or Congress could act to clarify its rules that the BLM is interpreting, he said.

Failing that, "Then we'll have to pursue our remedy, and that would be a resolution in court."

Project supporters and opponents also disagree on the effects of pumping 50,000 acre-feet a year out of an aquifer estimated to hold between 17 million and 34 million acre-feet of water, whether it would deplete natural springs that help sustain desert plants and animals, and how much groundwater would recharge the basin annually. One acre-foot of water is enough to supply two families in Southern California for a year.

"This project is going to be taking out ancient groundwater on an unsustainable level," said Aruna Prabhala, staff attorney with the Center for Biological Diversity. "We just think that's heading in the wrong direction, particularly in light of California's drought."

Other issues remain. Cadiz is in discussions with Metropolitan about using the aqueduct, water district spokesman Bob Muir said, but officials need to determine whether it has the capacity for additional users. There are also concerns about hexavalent chromium, a carcinogen, in the water.

Santa Margarita Water District spokeswoman Nicole Stanfield said the court decision "has moved us one step closer to expanding our water portfolio." But Corbin of the Jurupa district is not ready to count on the additional water supply.

"We're going to treat it — if available, if it gets through all of the project concerns, the environmental concerns — as a supplemental source of water," he said.

URL: <http://www.dailybulletin.com/environment-and-nature/20160511/cadiz-inc-still-needs-permission-to-build-pipeline>

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Bullying, fear revealed in survey of Cal State San Bernardino employees

By Mark Muckenfuss, *The Press-Enterprise*

Wednesday, May 11, 2016



Distrust of campus administration and bullying were among the problems Cal State San Bernardino employees reported in a survey conducted last fall.

Nearly half of the faculty respondents said they had witnessed incidents of bullying in the past year.

A 113-page report on the survey was made public at a meeting of the university's faculty senate Tuesday afternoon. It detailed the responses of 756 members of the faculty, staff,

administrators and former employees. This was the second report on the study. The first report, issued in early March, revealed problems with morale at the university.

Parts of both reports were particularly harsh toward university President Tomás Morales, who was at the Tuesday meeting and listened to questions about the report after it was presented.

After the session, Morales said in an interview he is looking carefully at the survey results.

"The entire report is concerning," Morales said.

The survey found that while faculty and staff seem fairly comfortable with the leadership of their departments and colleges, they don't trust top administrators at the university. Only 24 percent of respondents reported feeling there was a campuswide atmosphere of trust. The study's authors said negative comments by those surveyed outweighed positive ones 10 to one.

Additionally, one in four respondents reported being subjected to bullying. Comments collected in the study showed incidents from co-workers to top administrators.

"Staff to staff bullying is present in the office," one respondent reported. "The administrators are aware of it, but nothing is done."

- Document: [Read the Cal State survey](#)

Several comments were directed at the president.

"I witnessed the president bullying a (vice president) — horribly," the comment read. "Morales has serious anger management problems."

Morales admitted he has probably raised his voice on occasion.

"Like any human being, you lose patience," he said. "I have high expectations of myself and of my colleagues."

He added, "I treat people with respect. I treat them the way I would want to be treated."

Ted Rumml is chairman of the faculty senate. He said he hasn't observed bullying by the president.

"Dr. Morales has never raised his voice to me," Rumml said.

The survey, he said, has raised important issues. The report in March stunned many people on campus. Tuesday's follow-up, he said, was "a tougher report than the first."

Part of the problem, he said, is that Morales may be too insulated.

"I don't think he really understands what's going on for so many people here," Rumml said, adding that he's been encouraged by Morales' response to the reports. "I think he's going to do his best."

During the meeting, Kathy Pelletier, a marketing professor and one of the report's authors, said little will change if the recommendations in the report aren't acted upon.

"We don't make any progress without changing a climate of fear to a climate of trust," Pelletier said.

Fear of retaliation was another issue raised in the report. Only 30 percent of respondents said they felt safe expressing their opinions in a campuswide setting. Other issues raised by the survey included perceptions of preferential treatment based on cultural background; just 32 percent said people were treated fairly in this regard.

The report made a series of recommendations on how to improve the campus situation, including creating a specific anti-bullying policy, creating more transparency in administrative actions and conducting an audit of the human resources department, which was criticized for perceptions of favoritism and for slow processing of routine matters.

"I'm looking closely at the recommendations," Morales said. As to which ones might be implemented, he said, "I think all of them."

Psychology professor Jan Kottke, one of the study's authors, said she and others are optimistic that the concerns illustrated in the survey will be addressed by the administration.

"We're hoping very much for an improvement in the campus climate," Kottke said. "I'm very optimistic, but it's action we need to see. A lot of people are going to have a wait-and-see attitude."

Co-author Pelletier said that wait may be significant.

"Restoring trust is going to take a long time of repeated behavior," Pelletier said.

Survey recommendations

Authors of a report on an employee survey at Cal State San Bernardino made several recommendations to the administration. Among them:

- Create an explicit anti-bullying policy that clearly defines bullying conduct and the consequences of bullying behavior.

- Require all employees in leadership positions to attend training on bullying.
 - Immediately sponsor an audit of the human resources department's practices and policies by an independent party.
 - Follow the policies already in place with regard to fair employment practices.
 - Hire an executive coach who specializes in the area of authentic, ethical and relational leadership.
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URL: <http://www.sbsun.com/social-affairs/20160511/bullying-fear-revealed-in-survey-of-cal-state-san-bernardino-employees>

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Loma Linda University Health breaking ground on new hospital on May 22

By Jim Steinberg, San Bernardino Sun

Wednesday, May 11, 2016

LOMA LINDA >> When complete, it will be the tallest building in San Bernardino County and the second largest medical center in California, according to a news release from Loma Linda University Health.

On May 22, Loma Linda University Health will break ground on its new hospital complex and the community is invited.

There will be family activities including an obstacle course, face painting and a petting zoo, free giveaways and cooking demonstrations, the release says.

The event will be from 2 to 5 p.m. at 11234 Anderson St.

The 267 foot tall hospital will have 693 licensed beds — all in private rooms.

The top floor, the 16th, will be an education and conference center.

URL: <http://www.dailybulletin.com/health/20160511/loma-linda-university-health-breaking-ground-on-new-hospital-on-may-22>

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LOCAL / L.A. Now

Drought harming water quality in inland San Diego County



Taya Lazootin, a volunteer with San Diego Coastkeeper, takes a water sample from Escondido Creek in the Elfin Forest Recreational Preserve. (Charlie Neuman / San Diego Union-Tribune)

By **Deborah Sullivan Brennan**

MAY 12, 2016, 6:00 AM

San Diego County's inland water quality is suffering amid the ongoing drought, according to a new [San Diego Coastkeeper report](#) that found high amounts of bacteria and low oxygen levels in the region's creeks and streams.

“

Low oxygen is really an indicator of a collapsed ecosystem.

— Coastkeeper program manager Travis Pritchard

Coastkeeper's 2015 Water Quality Report, released Tuesday, ranked the area's inland water quality as

fair to poor, with no watershed earning “good” or “excellent” status.

The county’s northern watersheds received “fair” ratings. Most central and southern watersheds received marks of “marginal,” while the Tijuana area was rated “poor.”

After four dry years, San Diego remains in a state of extreme drought. Rainfall for the year to date is 7.85 inches, compared to an average of 10.01 inches, said Brett Albright, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service.

Without enough rain, the flushing and churning needed for normal stream function may be impaired, contributing to worsening water quality.

Coastkeeper compiled the report using data from about 360 samples taken at various sites throughout the year, with the help of nearly 200 volunteers. Each sample was tested for three different bacteria counts, dissolved oxygen, nitrates, temperature and pH, among other measures.

What jumped out most were fecal indicator bacteria, including *E. coli* and enterococcus bacteria, which flag possible water contamination. These common bacteria don’t necessarily cause disease themselves, but can signal the presence of other harmful microbes that lead to ear infections, rashes and stomach ailments among swimmers.

“We saw very high levels of fecal indicators this year, with 75% having unsafe levels,” said Coastkeeper program manager Travis Pritchard. “After a rainstorm, almost all come back with high fecal indicators.”

These bacteria are responsible for beach closures, and can also make it unsafe to fish. They typically come from urban runoff, although in specific places, such as La Jolla Cove or La Jolla Children’s Pool, they may be linked to marine mammals and other wildlife.

The Tijuana River area registered the worst water quality because of raw sewage and trash that flows into the waterway during wet weather, according to San Diego County’s website. As of May 6, beach closures have been in effect between the border and Coronado because of that problem.

Coastkeeper’s water monitoring also showed low dissolved oxygen in 31% of samples, a sign that the streams aren’t healthy for fish, insects and other aquatic life.

“Think about what lives in the stream — the bugs and the fish — all the wildlife that uses the stream as its habitat.” Pritchard said. “Low oxygen is really an indicator of a collapsed ecosystem.”

Oxygen levels rise when high amounts of nutrients, such as agricultural fertilizers or lawn amendments, trigger growth of algae. These blooms kill other aquatic plants, and then die off themselves. Bacteria that

consume the rotting vegetation siphon oxygen from the water, perpetuating the cycle of death and decay.

Drought conditions also slow the flows of waterways and raise their temperature, strangling San Diego streams, the Coastkeeper report stated.

“With really warm, low, slow-moving flows, we’re not seeing the turbulent mixing that needs to happen to enrich the stream with oxygen,” Pritchard said.

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Brennan writes for the San Diego Union-Tribune.

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By Paola Baker

[Print Page](#)

May 11, 2016 6:00PM

Daily Press photographer attacked at Hesperia Lake on Tuesday

HESPERIA — Authorities are investigating an incident in which a Daily Press photographer was attacked Tuesday afternoon.

The incident occurred at the Hesperia Lake Park in the 7500 block of Arrowhead Lake Road Tuesday afternoon. Hesperia Sheriff's Station officials are continuing to investigate the incident, but Sheriff's spokeswoman Karen Hunt said no leads on the suspect were available as of Wednesday.

Daily Press staff photographer David Pardo was taking photographs of families at the lake for an upcoming summer guide issue. He said he took a photograph of a woman feeding a duck at the lake, but when he identified himself to ask for her permission to use the photograph, the woman refused.

"I told her that was fine, but she insisted on me deleting the photographs," Pardo said. "I told her I couldn't do that as it was a public place, although I could request that her photograph not be used. She then said it was an invasion of her privacy and she would call the cops."

Anyone taking photos in a public place is protected by the First Amendment's right to free speech.

Pardo said he continued taking photographs of people at the lake while the woman reportedly called Sheriff's dispatch. Two men in a white Nissan sedan, described as Hispanic men, then pulled up to the lake and approached Pardo together with the woman.

"One of the guys just started yelling at me to delete the photos," Pardo said. "I remained calm but told him I couldn't do that. He was very belligerent and out of nowhere, he just swung at me."

Pardo said the blow knocked him to the ground, where the man kept attacking him. At one point, the man took Pardo's camera equipment and stomped on it before throwing it into Hesperia Lake.

After the initial attack, the group began to walk back toward the Nissan. Pardo said he tried to take a photograph of the vehicle with his phone as they left, but the man noticed him doing so and came back to attack him again.

"He also threw my phone into the lake," Pardo said. The group then fled the scene.

Pardo said he was able to borrow a phone from bystanders at the lake, who all claimed they didn't witness the attack. His jaw was so swollen that the dispatcher couldn't understand him at first, Pardo said.

Sheriff's deputies arrived on scene a few minutes later and a report on the incident was taken. Pardo refused medical aid at the scene, but later checked himself into a local hospital for treatment.

"I was afraid I had facial fractures, because everything was so swollen," Pardo said. "Luckily, X-rays showed no fractures."

Hunt said deputies reported the incident as an assault with injuries. Officials are investigating the incident, but as of Wednesday no arrests had yet been made.

Pardo said despite the frustration of being attacked over "simply doing my job," he feels fortunate it didn't escalate further.

"It definitely could have been a lot worse," Pardo said. "I hope they get this person soon."

Anyone with information on the incident is urged to contact Deputy M. Beidler at the Hesperia Sheriff's Station at 760-947-1500.

Paola Baker may be reached at 760-955-5332 or PBaker@VVDailyPress.com. Follow her on Twitter at @DP_PaolaBaker.

LOCAL / CALIFORNIA

Parents wrongly put on a child abuser list will get \$4.1 million to settle their suit

By **Garrett Therolf**

MAY 12, 2016, 6:00 AM

The father and stepmother of a 15-year-old runaway girl who falsely accused them of child abuse are set to receive \$4.1 million from the state and Los Angeles County to settle a lawsuit that contended their civil rights were violated when a sheriff's deputy placed their names on a list of child abusers.

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved a \$2.4-payout at their meeting Tuesday, and state lawmakers approved an additional \$1.7 million in October.

In addition to the payout, county officials spent \$935,000 on lawyers' fees to fight the suit filed by Craig and Wendy Humphries.

"This could have all been avoided for the price of a postage stamp if the county had simply asked the state to get them off the list," said Esther Boynton, the Humphries' attorney.

In 2001, the Humphries went to jail after the rebellious teenager fled to Utah and told police that the two had abused her. While the Valencia couple were locked up, sheriff's deputies placed their two younger children in foster care.

“

I believe there are many people on the database who don't even know they are there.

— Attorney Esther Boynton

Eight days later, the couple were released and the family was reunited following the filing of a misdemeanor charge. The couple's names were also entered by a sheriff's deputy into California's Child Abuse Central Index identifying them as "substantiated" child abusers.

The information in the database is available to aid law enforcement investigations and prosecutions, and to provide notification of new child abuse investigation reports involving the same suspects or victims.

Information is also available to social welfare agencies to help screen applicants for employment in child care facilities, schools and foster homes.

Four months after the couple were added to the list, all charges were dismissed, and a judge declared them "factually innocent."

But they learned that there was no way to remove their names from the database. Wendy Humphries, a teacher, had to hire an attorney to avoid losing her credentials because employers of people who work with children are required to consult the index.

For years, state and county officials pointed fingers at each other, saying the other entity was responsible for removing the couple from the list. It wasn't until 2012 that a district court judge ordered the county to notify the California Department of Justice that the Humphries proved to be "non substantiated" in 2001.

New procedures have since been put in place to notify people when their names are added to the registry, and an appeals process was instituted for those believing they were wrongly listed.

"I believe there are many people on the database who don't even know they are there," Boynton said.

The database, she said, "started with the best of intentions, but the information needs to be accurate for it to work."

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Expanding Health Coverage in California: County Jails as Enrollment Sites

Summary

In 2014, the first year of Affordable Care Act (ACA) implementation, the number of Californians with health insurance increased substantially. However, millions of state residents continue to lack comprehensive health coverage, and those who remain uninsured are likely more difficult to enroll through traditional strategies.

In this report, we find that uninsured rates are highest for young men and for those with low levels of education, income, and employment. The prevalence of these same characteristics among correctional populations suggests that the justice system—and, in particular, county jails—may offer points of contact for many uninsured individuals who would otherwise be hard to reach.

Outreach and enrollment efforts aimed at local jail populations are set within the policy context of California's 2011 Public Safety Realignment, which created incentives and resources for local corrections agencies to improve reentry outcomes. With expansions in access to health insurance coverage under the ACA, nearly all counties are establishing programs to provide enrollment assistance to jail inmates as part of a more comprehensive reentry strategy. But resources and capacity are limited, so it is important to identify effective models to maximize the potential of county correctional systems as sites of insurance enrollment.

Introduction

California has made major strides in reducing the number of state residents who do not have health insurance. The state's implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) in 2014 expanded public insurance coverage through Medi-Cal, the state's Medicaid program, and provided new options for federally subsidized insurance coverage through Covered California, the state's insurance marketplace. Still, more than 4 million Californians continued to lack comprehensive health coverage in 2014—even after sizeable investments in public information campaigns, outreach activities, and enrollment assistance in the lead-up to and first year of ACA implementation. Although more recent estimates suggest further declines in California's uninsured rate in 2015, between 3.25 million and 3.85 million Californians remain without health coverage.¹ Those who continue to lack insurance are likely to be more difficult to reach and enroll.

To address this difficulty, the state passed [legislation](#) that allocates nearly \$25 million for enrollment efforts focused on special population groups. The funding goes to local community organizations and

county agencies to provide focused enrollment assistance for several groups—including people with mental health or substance use issues, homeless individuals, young men of color, and people under state and county correctional authority. In addition, a 2013 state law that facilitates [enrollment assistance within jails](#) has removed many barriers to enrolling correctional populations in California (Bird and McConville 2014).²

It is important to understand these enrollment efforts in the policy context of California's Public Safety Realignment. Implemented in 2011, realignment shifted responsibility for the supervision of lower-level felons from the state to the counties. Although this major policy change was instigated by a court-mandated reduction in the state prison population, the realignment legislation also promoted the use of evidence-based reentry practices and advanced the notion that these practices can be more successful at the local level (Petersilia 2014; Bird and Grattet 2014). This shift toward local responsibility increased incentives for county justice systems to invest in reentry programming—coordinated services and supports designed to help former inmates transition back into the community and avoid further contact with the criminal justice system. Facilitating connections to health insurance coverage under the ACA could support these efforts.

In this report, we describe the characteristics of those who remain uninsured in California under the ACA. We compare these populations with correctional populations and use new information about California's local jail population to assess the potential of county jails to enroll those who continue to lack health coverage. We conclude with a discussion of key design and implementation decisions county jails face in creating and sustaining health care enrollment assistance programs.

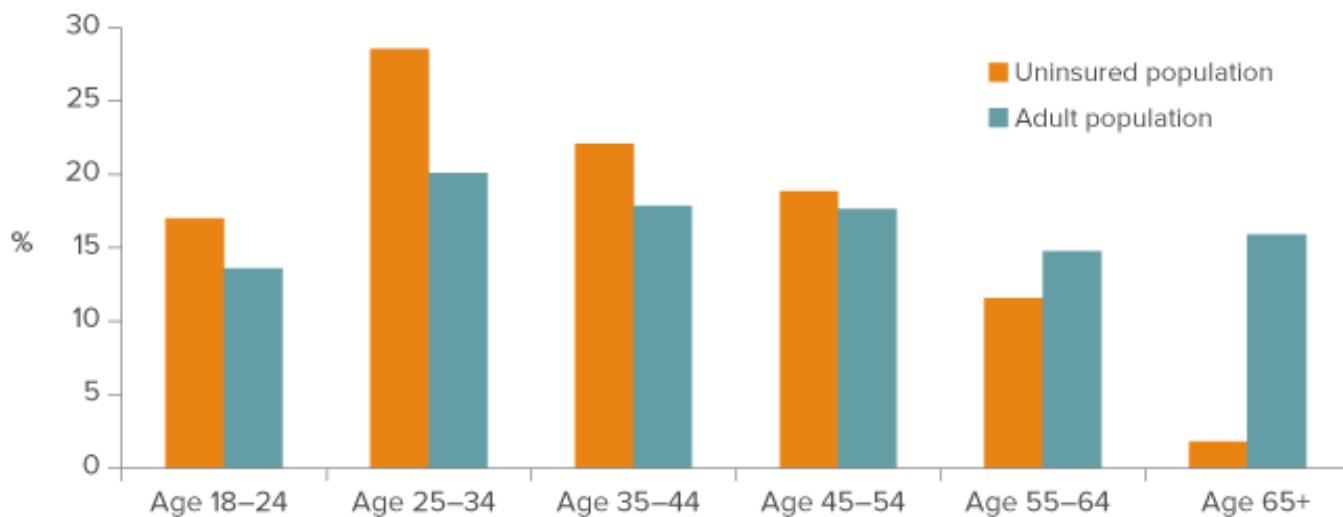
Who Is Still Uninsured in California?

In the first year of ACA coverage expansions, the percentage of Californians without health insurance dropped from 17.2 percent in 2013 to 12.4 percent in 2014—representing an increase of nearly 2 million residents with health coverage. Nonetheless, more than 4 million California residents were without comprehensive health insurance in 2014. Undocumented immigrants, who are largely excluded from the coverage expansions under the ACA, comprise a large share of this group: available estimates suggest nearly one million uninsured residents in California in 2014 were not eligible for financial assistance due to their immigration status. But more than 2 million California residents who are eligible for free or subsidized coverage remain uninsured (Garfield et al. 2016).

What do we know about those who continue to lack health insurance? Nearly six in ten uninsured California adults are men and about seven in ten are between the ages of 18 and 44. In fact, men under age 45 are overrepresented among the uninsured: they make up 35 percent of Californians who were uninsured in 2014, but only about 19 percent of the state's general population. The overall age distribution of the uninsured skews heavily toward young adults, with people age 25 to 34 comprising the largest share of those without coverage. They are also the most overrepresented among the uninsured

relative to their share of the California adult population (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Young adults are disproportionately represented among remaining uninsured

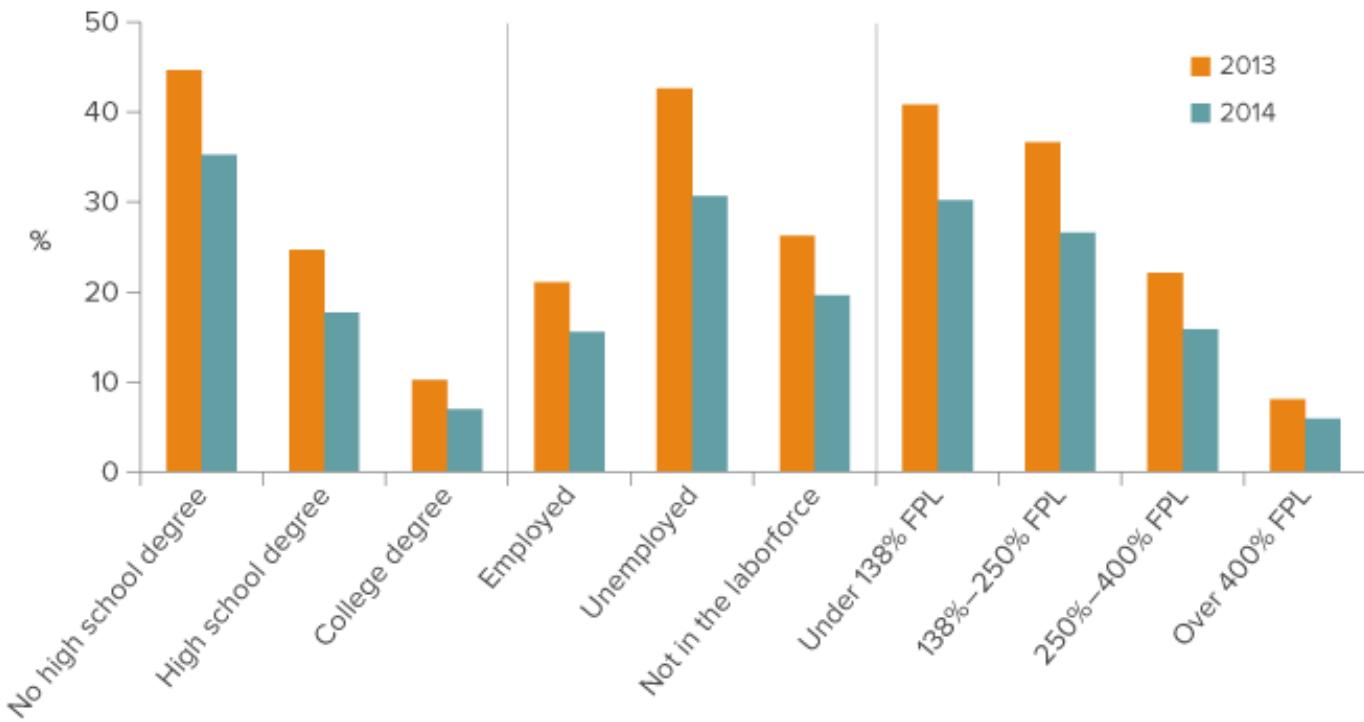


SOURCE: 2014 American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample.

NOTE: Includes all California adults age 18 and over.

Adults with low education levels, low family incomes, and unstable employment are also disproportionately likely to be uninsured—even though the shares without insurance have declined significantly, uninsured rates in these groups remain stubbornly high. Among adults who did not finish high school, 35 percent were uninsured in 2014, down from nearly 45 percent one year earlier. Similarly, more than 30 percent of unemployed adults and those with family incomes below 138 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL)—the income eligibility threshold for the Medi-Cal program—continued to lack coverage, despite also experiencing a 10 percentage point drop in uninsured rates during this period. Uninsured rates are even higher for young males who have low education levels and are not steadily employed. Nearly 45 percent of men age 18 to 44 who did not graduate from high school were uninsured in 2014, and 36 percent of unemployed men in this age group were uninsured.

Figure 2. Uninsured rates remain high for adults with low education and income levels and those seeking work



SOURCE: American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample, 2013 and 2014.

NOTE: Insurance coverage is measured at the time of the survey. Results shown are for all California adults age 18–64. Income levels are presented as poverty rates based on federal poverty level (FPL) thresholds related to income eligibility cutoffs for health insurance coverage programs including Medi-Cal (under 138% FPL), premium and copayment subsidies available for coverage purchased through Covered California (138–250% FPL), and premium subsidies only for coverage purchased through Covered California (250–400% FPL).

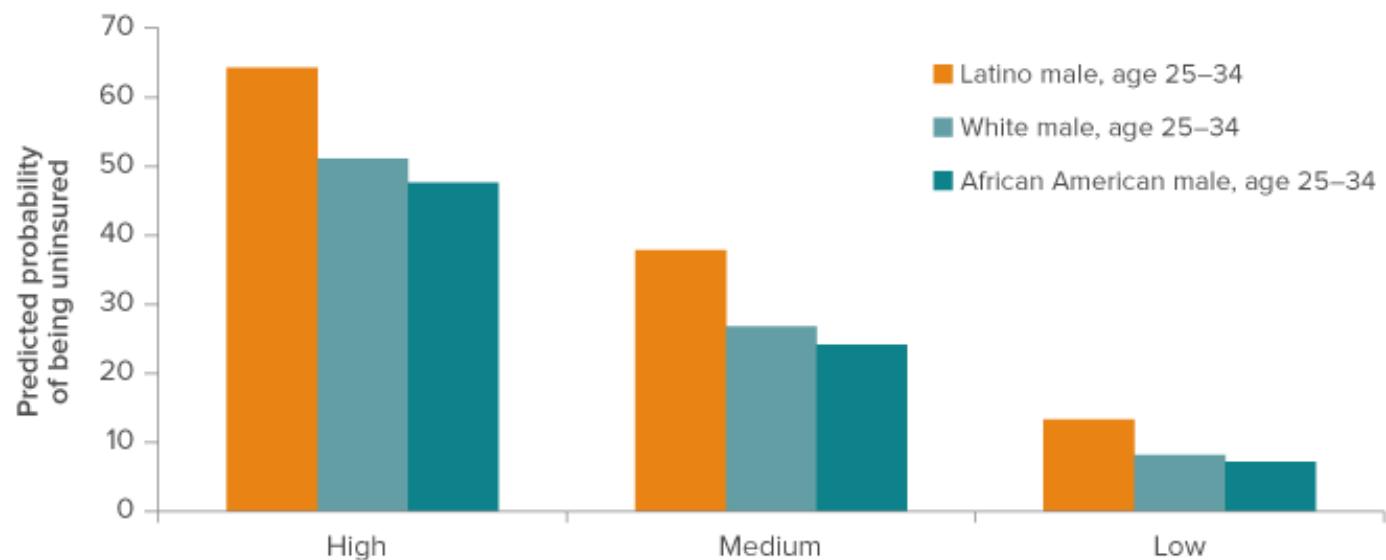
The ACA is focused on helping people with low family incomes get health insurance, but about 70 percent of California adults who did not have insurance in 2014 had family income levels that should have qualified them either for free coverage through the Medi-Cal program or for heavily subsidized coverage through Covered California ([technical appendix Table A1](#)). It is conceivable that this high rate is being driven by California's undocumented immigrant population, which—as we have already noted—is largely ineligible for coverage; this population tends to be younger and has higher shares of men and low education levels relative to the general population.

To assess this possibility, we examined the likelihood of being uninsured more closely.³ We found that young men remained significantly more likely to be uninsured in 2014 even after we control for undocumented status and a variety of other characteristics, including race/ethnicity, income level, education, employment, and marital status.

Figure 3 shows the predicted probabilities of men age 25 to 34 being uninsured across three levels of disadvantage, which are based on education, income, and employment levels. In the high disadvantage category—comprised of young men who did not finish high school, have incomes below 138 percent FPL, and are unemployed—the probability of being uninsured in 2014 is 64 percent for Latinos and

about 50 percent for non-Hispanic whites and blacks. The likelihood of being uninsured is considerably lower at lower levels of disadvantage. For men age 25 to 34 with a high school education, incomes between 138 and 250 percent FPL, and current employment—in the medium disadvantage category—the likelihood of being uninsured is cut nearly in half but remains relatively high (about 25% to 38% across racial/ethnic groups). And for a younger man in the least disadvantaged category—comprised of those who have a college degree, incomes above 250 percent FPL, and current employment—the probability of being uninsured in 2014 is considerably lower (about 13% for Latinos and about 8% for whites and African Americans).

Figure 3. Among young men, high levels of disadvantage point to a high probability of being uninsured



SOURCE: 2014 American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample.

NOTE: Predicted probabilities are calculated based on the results of logistic regression analysis modeling the likelihood of uninsured status in 2014. In addition to sex, age, and the markers of disadvantage (education, poverty level, and employment status), the model also includes controls for undocumented status and marital status. All results in the figure are for individuals who are not flagged as undocumented and have never been married.

There are many reasons why people may not enroll in available coverage options, including affordability, personal preference, and a limited understanding of the role of health insurance. Others may lack resources or access to people or institutions with information about available coverage and the ability to assist with enrollment. Adults who have had contact with the criminal justice system are especially likely to have limited contact with traditional connections to health insurance coverage, such as higher education institutions or employers; they may also lack community ties that could provide information on low-cost coverage options.

It is important to recognize that many of the characteristics prevalent among the uninsured—including

low education levels and unemployment—have been linked to a higher likelihood of being involved with the criminal justice system (Gould et al. 2002; Lochner and Moretti 2004). Moreover, there may be considerable overlap between Californians who have contact with correctional institutions and the groups of Californians who continue to have high uninsured rates. Nationwide, nearly three in four adults housed in correctional institutions—including inmates in state, county, and federal correctional facilities—are between the ages of 18 and 44, and more than nine in ten are male. Incarcerated adults have low education levels relative to the general adult population; more than 30 percent have not graduated from high school and fewer than 5 percent have college degrees. Very few are married, and the share with disabilities is very high: one in four report at least one disability that affects basic functioning ([technical appendix Table A3](#)). For these reasons, targeting correctional populations for enrollment outreach could play an important role in reducing the number of uninsured Californians.

County Jails as Sites of Enrollment

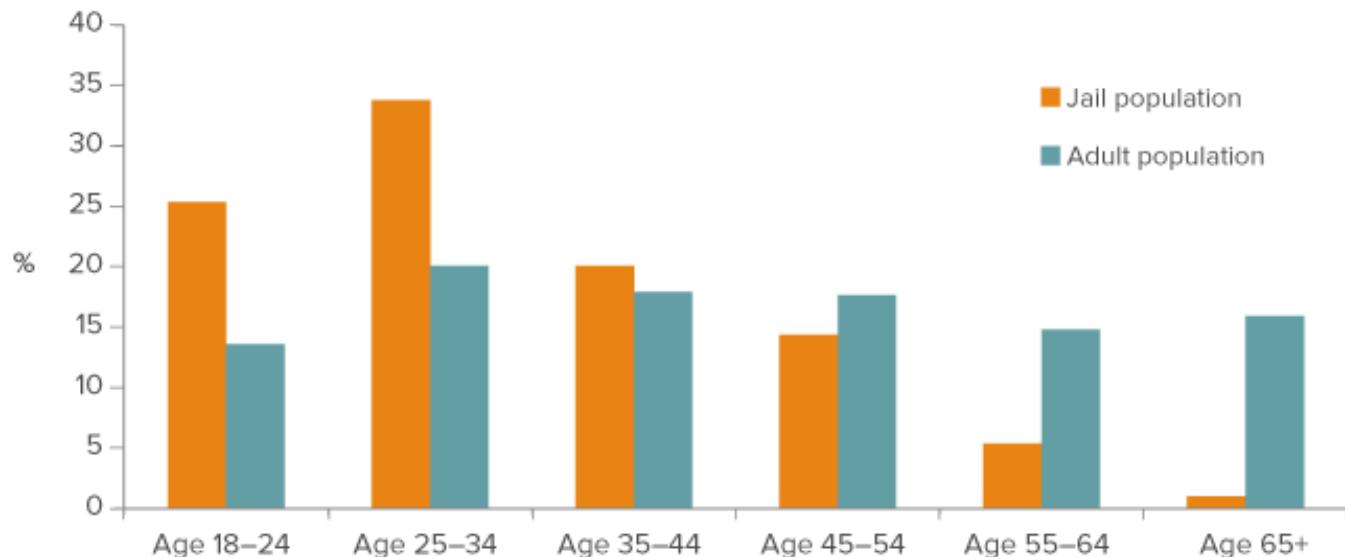
California's jails may prove particularly promising sites to target enrollment assistance due to the high volume of individuals with whom they have contact. In 2014, the county jail system had an average daily population of about 80,000 inmates.⁴ It is difficult to pinpoint the actual number of inmates, given the significant amount of turnover in local jails. Nationwide, there were more than 11.4 million admissions to local jails in 2014, roughly 15 times the average daily population (Minton and Zeng 2015). When we apply this ratio to California's system, we estimate that jails had more than 1.1 million admissions in 2014.⁵ And available evidence suggests that many of those with jail contact are uninsured and eligible for Medi-Cal (Bandara et al. 2015; Somers et al. 2014).

Information on the size and characteristics of California's jail population has historically been quite limited. However, a new data collection effort initiated in response to realignment has begun to fill these informational gaps. The BSCC-PPIC Multi-County Study (MCS) is a collaborative effort between the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) and the California Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) to work with a representative group of 12 counties to capture in-depth, individual-level data on their correctional populations. The participating counties are Alameda, Contra Costa, Fresno, Humboldt, Kern, Los Angeles, Orange, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Francisco, Shasta, and Stanislaus. This group of counties, comprising about two-thirds of the total population, reflects the demographic composition and regional distribution of the statewide population. Nonetheless, characteristics of the population in other local jurisdictions may be different.

We estimate an average daily population of about 55,000 inmates in 2014 for the county jail systems included in this study.⁶ We find that approximately 455,000 adults, or more than eight times the average daily population, had contact with these county jail systems at some point over the course of the year.⁷ Nearly three-quarters (72%) of these individuals were booked only once, while a small group—about 14,000 individuals—had five or more jail contacts over the one-year period.

These individual-level jail data indicate that jail inmates in California tend to be younger than the general population. Figure 4 compares the age distribution of the jail population to that of the general adult population for the counties under study. Interestingly, the comparison shown in Figure 4 is similar to the age distribution of the uninsured relative to the general population shown in Figure 1.

Figure 4. Young adults are overrepresented in California's jail population

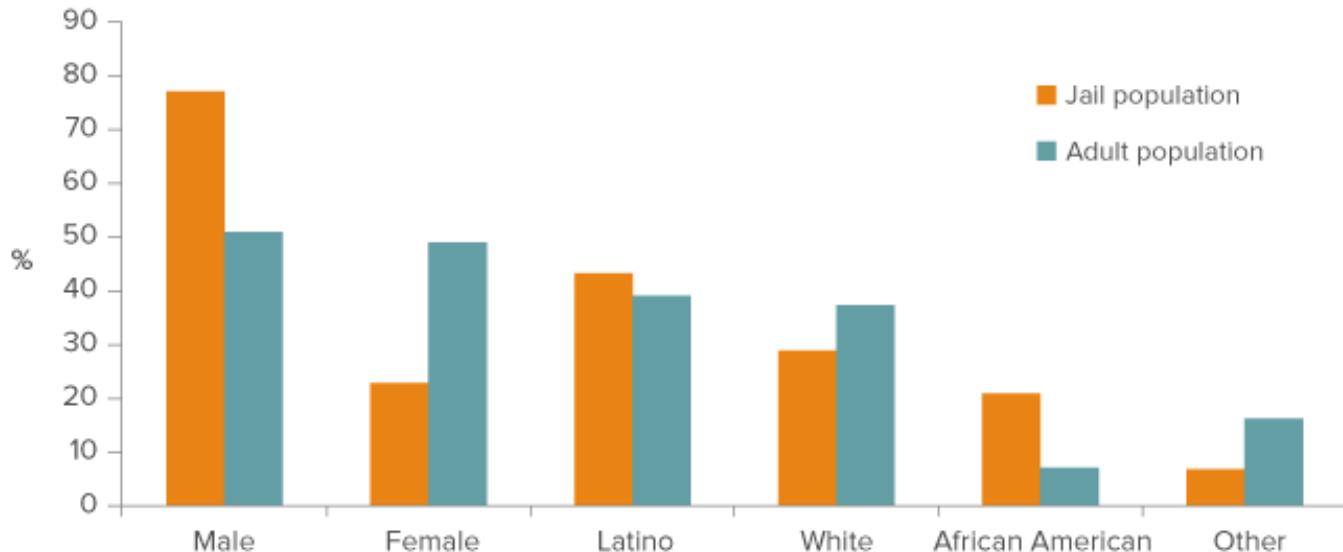


SOURCE: MCS data, 2014; 2014 American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample.

NOTE: The age profile of the jail population is based on the characteristics of adults moving through the jails systems of the study counties. The general adult population represents Californians age 18 and older in the study counties.

Unsurprisingly, we find that the vast majority (77%) of adults moving through the jail system are men—this gender difference holds across local, state, and federal justice systems. We also observe that Latinos and, in particular, African Americans are overrepresented among adults with jail contact. Figure 5 summarizes the gender and racial/ethnic composition of this population.

Figure 5. California's jail population is disproportionately male and non-white



SOURCES: MCS data, 2014; 2014 American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample.

NOTES: Jail population estimates are based on the characteristics of adults moving through the jail system in the counties under study. Adult population estimates include Californians age 18 and older in the counties under study.

The jail population is likely to be difficult to reach via traditional sites, such as employment or educational institutions. But, given the demographic similarities between California's jail population and its uninsured population, outreach efforts within jail systems have the potential to help the state meet its goal of expanding health coverage.

There is evidence that insurance enrollment improves health outcomes for former inmates and that it may reduce recidivism.

Enrollment outreach in jail systems may also have benefits beyond improving health insurance coverage. There is evidence that insurance enrollment improves health outcomes for former inmates and that it may reduce recidivism (Freudenberg et al. 2005; Morrissey et al. 2007; Mancuso and Felver 2009). Specifically, chemical dependency treatment and outpatient mental health programs have been associated with reductions in rearrests and fewer total arrests (Morrissey et al. 2006; Mancuso and Felver 2009). These findings predate the ACA and are limited to inmates eligible for Medicaid—and, of course, insurance coverage alone does not guarantee an increase in the use of health services. But higher treatment rates among ex-offenders with severe mental illness and substance use disorders were reported for former inmates when they had Medicaid coverage (Morrissey et al. 2006; Shah et al. 2013).

Several changes underway within the Medi-Cal program suggest that enrollment could prove even more beneficial than in the past. Efforts to better integrate mental and physical health services, an overhaul of the Drug Medi-Cal program that provides treatment for substance use disorders, and the development of pilot projects that connect Medi-Cal beneficiaries to social services—including housing and case management—could all prove especially salutary to those under the supervision of county correctional

systems.

Designing Enrollment Assistance Programs

Opportunities for increased insurance coverage created by recent state and federal policy changes rely heavily on effective local implementation. Under realignment, county correctional systems face stronger incentives to invest in reentry assistance and many local corrections and health practitioners recognize the benefits of expanded access to health coverage and care. Although increased responsibilities under realignment and limited resources can make it difficult to prioritize health insurance enrollment assistance for this population, most counties report that they are providing some form of assistance for individuals under correctional supervision (Californians for Safety and Justice 2015). As counties continue to develop and implement enrollment assistance programs, it will be important to understand whether the decisions they make help them meet their goals—goals that may vary across counties, and even across agencies within the same county.

Counties are covering the cost of these programs in a variety of ways, including using public safety realignment funds, county general funds, and state and federal Medi-Cal administrative funds. There are also differences in the relationships between county jail systems and other entities that can provide enrollment assistance—especially county welfare departments, the county agencies responsible for administering Medi-Cal enrollment. In many cases, realignment has forged or strengthened these relationships by requiring the counties to create Community Correction Partnerships (CCPs) that are tasked with the implementation and management of realignment within each county. In recognition of the need for a holistic approach to reentry, these CCPs include representatives from county correctional and court systems and also from county social services and health agencies. Through CCPs, counties can bring often siloed agencies together to connect correctional populations to services and supports that could reduce recidivism. CCPs also create opportunities to coordinate goals, strategies, and funding.

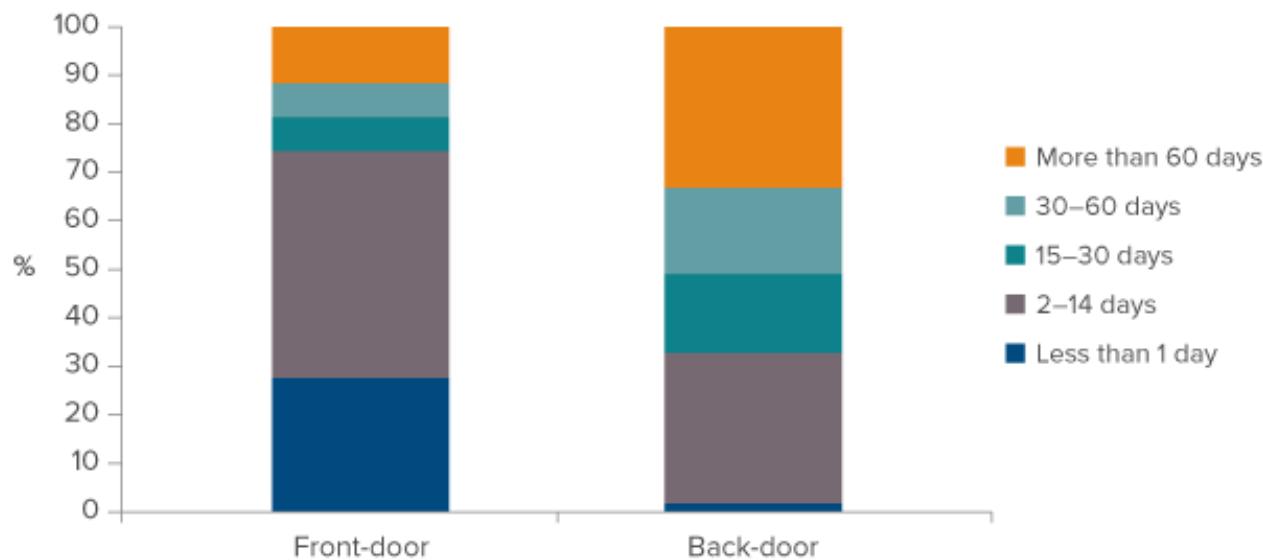
The degree of coordination across county agencies and the types of funding available to support enrollment efforts have implications for program scope and sustainability. Highly coordinated counties may be able to leverage expertise and points of contact across agencies to accomplish more with fewer resources. In resource-constrained environments, however, collaborators may need to choose between enrolling as many uninsured individuals as possible and offering enrollment assistance to specific high-need populations. And if counties opt to focus on high-need groups, they will need to decide how to target those efforts. Health and human services agencies may focus on those with high general health needs, while corrections agencies may focus on high behavioral health needs that are related to greater involvement with the criminal justice system. Similarly, health and human services agencies may prioritize individuals who drive up county health costs with their frequent emergency room contact, while correctional agencies may target individuals who drive up correctional health care costs through hospital stays while in custody. Realizing the potential gains from coordination and collaboration across agencies requires a program model that balances the goals of different stakeholders.

Counties may also need to confront trade-offs between the size of the population targeted for intervention and the intensity of the treatment provided. Although the implementation process is still in its early stages, two primary methods are emerging for identifying groups within the jail system in need of enrollment assistance. The first focuses efforts on the relatively broad population flowing into jails; the second concentrates on convicted jail inmates nearing the end of their terms.

The first approach, which we refer to as the “front door” strategy, targets all individuals who are booked into jail on a new arrest, warrant, hold, or supervision violation, as well as those committed to jail to serve sentences. This model uses the booking process as an opportunity to screen for health insurance coverage and to provide targeted assistance to the uninsured. In the counties included in the MCS study, the front-door group would include all 455,000 individual adults who were booked into county jails at some point in 2014. Nearly 30 percent were admitted and released on the same day, while another 45 percent spent less than two weeks in custody (Figure 6).

A second approach, which we refer to as the “back door” strategy, focuses efforts on a narrower population of individuals who were convicted of offenses, received jail sentences, and are nearing the completion of those sentences. Enrollment assistance can be provided to this population as part of a comprehensive reentry planning strategy. In our data, about 70,000 adults were released back into the community in 2014 after serving jail sentences. Unsurprisingly, this back-door group spent more time in custody than the front-door group: about one-third served a continuous term of more than 60 days and another 18 percent served between one and two months. Given these longer periods in custody, the back-door model generally allows more time for substantial enrollment assistance, spanning from screening to assistance with applications to follow-up to confirm enrollment.

Figure 6. The back-door population spends more time in custody



SOURCE: MCS data, 2014.

NOTE: Jail population estimates are based on adults moving through the jail system in the counties

under study.

Under either strategy, enrollment assistance could range from providing basic information to more comprehensive assistance. However, the front-door strategy's target population is more than six times the size of the population targeted by the back-door strategy, and this affects the level of resources that could be devoted to each individual. There are few differences in the demographic characteristics of the two groups, although individuals targeted after serving jail sentences are slightly more likely to be male and less likely to be Latino than those in the front-door group ([technical appendix Table B1](#)).

Looking Forward

California has made substantial progress in increasing insurance coverage under the ACA. In 2014, the number of uninsured residents declined by 2 million, nearly 5 percentage points. However, millions of residents remain uninsured, and state and local agencies continue to try to connect those who are eligible to available coverage options. We find that uninsured Californians in 2014 are disproportionately young and male. Among young men, we find that those with low education levels, low incomes, and less attachment to employment are especially likely to be uninsured.

California's jail system may offer important opportunities to reach a share of the uninsured—particularly those who are harder to reach through traditional enrollment mechanisms. In addition to helping the state meet its health insurance coverage goals, enrollment assistance efforts offer the potential to leverage federal and state Medi-Cal resources to improve access to needed physical and behavioral health resources for the reentry population. Existing research suggests that interventions that improve access to health-related services could go a long way toward reducing recidivism, and the associated cost savings have the potential both to reduce the correctional cost burden on counties and to free up resources for additional reentry programming. As counties initiate and expand enrollment assistance efforts, the diversity in their approaches can help us track key differences among models and identify best practices.

San Bernardino County Sun (<http://www.sbsun.com>)

Neighborhood website Nextdoor.com used for racial profiling, says group

By Olga R. Rodriguez, Associated Press

Thursday, May 12, 2016



SAN FRANCISCO — A San Francisco-based social media network created to connect neighbors in online communities said it is making changes on how members can report suspicious activity, after a group complained it was being used for racial profiling.

The change comes after some residents in racially diverse Oakland complained the site that was created to share recommendations on plumbers or pass along information on used furniture was instead being used to post racially-based

warnings about minorities.

In an effort to remedy that, Nextdoor.com will no longer allow immediate postings on its crime and safety section, said company chief executive Nirav Tolia. Instead, it will require people reporting a crime or warning about a suspicious person to fill out several forms before their post is published.

"If you make it really easy to post anything, people don't have to think," Tolia said. "But if you insert these decision points it forces them to think about what they are doing."

The hope is that the extra steps will force users on the 5-year-old site, which sees 3 million messages in its crime and safety section each day, to think about who they are reporting about and why.

The forms will ask users to detail criminal behavior before they describe a suspect, and will force them to describe the person from head to toe and not just by race. The site now also scans for mentions of race that may be offensive. And if a racial profiling post somehow gets through anyway, anyone can flag it for removal.

Last October, Oakland-based Neighbors for Racial Justice complained to city officials that the site created was being used to post the racially-inspired warnings focusing on minorities.

It's not clear how widespread the problem is on Nextdoor, but a handful of publications across the nation have written about racial profiling complaints from users of the site, with most of articles written in the context of the problems first reported in Oakland and Nextdoor's actions to address the issue.

Oakland resident and Neighbors for Racial Justice member Shikira Porter said she saw posts for her neighborhood referring to black males.

"Sometimes there would be posts about a black man walking by too slowly and they would take his picture and post it on Nextdoor," Porter said.

She wrote asking for the users who made such postings to clarify what crime had been committed. Her group later met with Nextdoor officials, but eventually it took the complaints to Councilwoman Annie Campbell Washington.

Since last year, a council committee led by Campbell Washington has met with Nextdoor representatives to address the issue.

“The work that Nextdoor has done is truly groundbreaking and they were willing to meet with myself and members of the community and really dig deep to take on the issue of racial profiling and make real change in the way their users are posting,” Campbell Washington said.

The company has been testing the changes since April in the San Francisco Bay Area and several East Coast cities and plans to take the new rules nationwide by summer.

Porter, who helped create the changes, said she hopes having to fill the forms will force neighbors to really watch those who they deem suspicious.

“Maybe if they watch a little longer they’ll see that people are just being in the world, just like them,” Porter said.

URL: <http://www.sbsun.com/social-affairs/20160512/neighborhood-website-nextdoorcom-used-for-racial-profiling-says-group>

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